

**The Occurrence of *Trypanosoma conorhini* Donovan in the
Reduviid Bug, *Triatoma rubrofasciata* (Degeer)
from Oahu, T. H.**

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In 1942, C. E. Pemberton (Hawaiian Med. Jour., 2: 192) reported a large number of specimens of *Triatoma rubrofasciata* (Degeer) collected in an old lumber pile in the Kaimuki district of Honolulu. Previous studies by Donovan (Trans. Bombay Med. Congr., 1909, Feb. 24: 159), Lafont (C. R. Soc. Biol., 1912: 380-382; Ann. Inst. Pasteur, 1912, 26: 893-922), Morishita (Japanese Jour. Zoöl., 6: 459-546) and Bonne (Geneeskundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandisch-Indie, 1936, 76: 2483-2486) have pointed out the similarity of the parasites harbored by *T. rubrofasciata* to the causative agent of Chagas' disease, *Trypanosoma cruzi* Chagas.

After consultation with Honolulu entomologists, a search was made of some likely localities in the Kaimuki district May 26, 1944, by Dr. Walter Carter and the writer, but no *Triatoma* were found. Through the kindness of Dr. Carter, two male and two female *Triatoma rubrofasciata* collected by Mr. K. Ito under a chicken coop on March 27, 1945 were obtained. The insects were dead when dissected May 19, 1945 but one male and two females showed typical crithidial and trypanoform stages of *Trypanosoma conorhini* Donovan. One male collected May 24, 1945 from the davenport inside a neighbor's house was examined in Dr. Carter's laboratory on May 31, 1945 and revealed a heavy infection of the same parasite. Subsequently, Mr. K. Sakimura brought in nineteen nymphs, one male and one female from a house for cats in the Kaimuki district. All of these bugs were negative but another male and female collected by the writer with Mr. Ito in the same general area from under a chicken coop were heavily infected.

The structure of these parasites from stained smears and the characteristic motility of the trypanoform stages agree very closely with previous studies of the crithidial and metacyclic trypanosome forms of *Trypanosoma cruzi* harbored by *Triatoma protracta*, *T. protracta woodi*, *T. rubida*, *T. gerstaeckeri*, and *T. longipes*, in the United States.

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